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Lathyrus Mexicanus Schl. Linnæa, **12**: Litb. 85 (1838).

"L. glaucescens, cirrhis diphyllis, foliolis lineari-lanceolatis oblongisve obtusis mucronatis trinerviis, pedunculis unifloris, folio longioribus, leguminibus compressis polyspermis. In tepid. ♃. Accepimus semen cum adnotatione: 'Lathyri species e Mexico.' Flores amœne purpurei, magnitudine *L. odorati.* Vereor tamen, ne *L. tingitanus*, cultura mutatus sit."—Schlechtendal.

"South Mexico, valley of Mexico (Bourgeau, 85) Herb. Kew. This is probably *L. tingitanus* L., an Old World species now widely diffused as an escape from cultivation."—Hemsley, Bot. Cent. Amer. **1**: 293.

Type not seen by the writer.

Lathyrus cinctus S. Wats. Proc. Am. Acad. **23**: 263 (1888) is *Vicia gigantea* Hook. Fl. Bor. Am. **1**: 157 (1830) as noted on type specimens in Gray Herb.

A new fossil Hepatic from the Lower Yellowstone in Montana.

By F. H. Knowlton.

[Plate 219.]

Preissites Wardii n. gen. et sp.

Thallus large, from 8–15 mm. long, and about 6 mm. broad, entire, or more commonly once or twice forked, provided with a distinct midrib which forks with the forking of the thallus, and along the sides of which are numerous vein-like lines caused by the overlapping scales of the lower surface; fruit unknown.

Hepaticæ in a fossil state are exceedingly rare, and the species here described represents, so far as I am now aware, the only extinct form known from North America. According to Mr. Arthur Hollick, of Columbia College, beautifully preserved specimens of the living *Marchantia polymorpha*, have been found in calcarious tufa, but there is every reason to suppose that they are of very recent origin.

In Europe, outside of a dozen more or less doubtful species of Jungermanniaceæ preserved in the Baltic amber, only six fossil species appear to have been thus far described: *Marchantia Sezanensis* Sap.,[1] closely allied to the living *M. polymorpha* L.,

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[1] Fl. Foss. de Sez. 308, *pl. 1, figs. 1–8.*

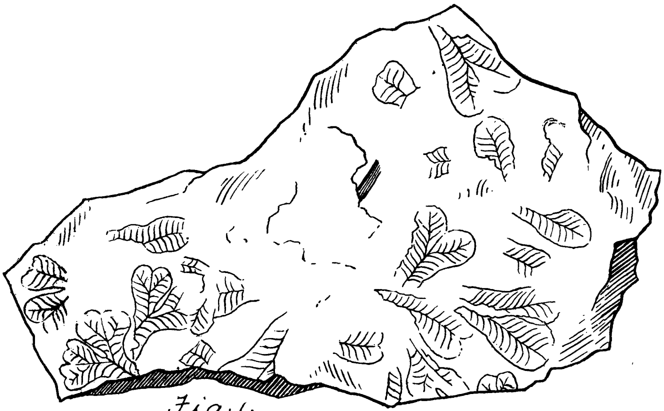

Fig. 1.

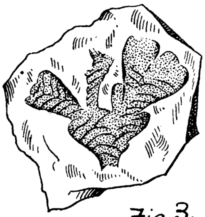

Fig. 3.

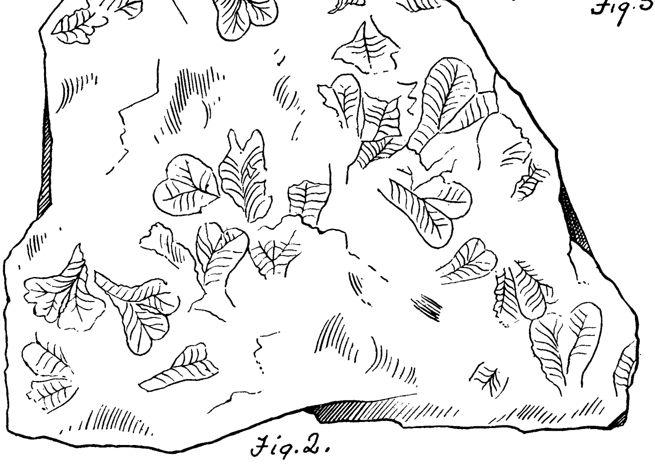

Fig. 2.

PREISSITES WARDII KNOWLTON.

from the oldest tertiary of Sézanne ; *M. gracilis* Sap.,[2] allied to *M. linealis* Lindl., also from Sézanne; *M. sinuatus* Sap.,[3] from the Miocene of Marseilles ; *M. dichtyophylla* Sap.,[4] from Aix, France ; *Marchantites oolithicus* Fliche,[5] from the Lower Oolite of the vicinity of Nancy, France ; and the recently described *Marchantites Zeilleri* Seward,[6] from the English Wealden. It is therefore interesting to find that this group of plants was early in existence in America as well as in Europe.

This new American species is regarded as being allied to the genus *Preissia*, and I have made a new genus for its reception by the addition to the name of the living genus of the termination *-ites* to indicate its fossil state ; yet it is with a good deal of hesitation that it is referred to this rather than to the evidently allied genus *Marchantia*. But taking *Marchantia polymorpha* as the type, very little can be found in the coarser structure of its thallus that would be likely, if it were fossilized, to give rise to the regular vein-like lines so prominent in the fossil form under consideration. On the other hand, the thallus of *Preissia commutata* is provided on the under side with scales that would be very likely to be preserved as lines if it should become fossilized. In the absence of fruit, however, it is unsafe to attempt positive conclusions on a purely vegetative character, and this determination is to be regarded as tentative.

In the accompanying figures (Plate 219, Figs. 1 and 2) the lines along the midvein appear stronger than they really are, and might easily be mistaken for veins. Their true nature is better shown in Fig. 3, where they are drawn as over-lapping scales. The specimens are small, not especially well preseved and hence in the drawings these lines are rather more prominent than they should be.

The specimens of this hepatic, all of which are figured, were collected by Prof. Lester F. Ward, of the U. S. Geological Survey, August 3–7, 1883, at Burns's Ranche, on the Lower Yellowstone,

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[2] Op. cit. 312, *pl. 1, fig. 9.*

[3] Ann. d. Sci. Nat. Bot. (V.) 3 : 68, *pl. 1, fig. 2* (1865).

[4] Op. cit. 17 : 6 [82], *pl. 1, fig. 3 ;* (1873) 18 : 137 [235].

[5] Bull. d. Soc. d. Sci. Nancy (II.) 6 : 16, *pl.* [not numbered] *figs. 1, 11* (1882).

[6] Cat. Mesoz. Pl. Brit. Mus., Wealden Flora Pt. i. 18, *pl. 1, fig. 3.*

30 miles below the town of Glendive, Montana. They come from strata usually referred to the Fort Union Group, but the beds appear, from the similarity of fossils as well as from their position at the base of the section, to be of the same horizon as the beds at Iron Bluff, which rest upon the Fox Hills Group. It is therefore possible, as Prof. Ward has pointed out (Bull. Geol. Soc. Am. **1**: 531), that these beds may represent the Laramie.

I take great pleasure in naming the species in honor of Prof. Ward, its collector.

Botanical Notes.

Steironema intermedium, Kearney.—Dr. Charles Mohr calls my attention to the fact that the form of this species collected by him in Talladega county, Alabama, differs from the type in having the stems decumbent or ascending.

In the figure of this plant published in the BULLETIN of the Torrey Club,* the staminodia were inadvertently omitted. These afford another excellent character for distinguishing the species. In *Steironema ciliatum* they are subulate-lanceolate, tapering from the base to the very acute apex. In *S. intermedium* they are of the same form, except that the apex is less subulate, but are from one-third to one-half as long. In *S. radicans,* finally, the sterile filaments are yet shorter and are comparatively broader and more abruptly pointed than in *S. intermedium.*

Gray (Syn. Fl. N. Am. **2**: Part 1, 61), describes the bottom of the corolla and the filaments of *Steironema* as "granulose-glandular." As these glands have distinct, though very short stalks, the term is not strictly applicable. In *S. radicans* the filaments are naked or with very few glands, while the corolla is much less glandular than in *S. ciliatum* and *S. intermedium.*

T. H. KEARNEY, JR.

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* Bull. Torr. Club, **21**: 264, *t. 209* (1894).